

Annotated Agenda
MAFAC Fall Meeting
September 23-25, 2014 · Silver Spring, MD

- 1. Agenda Item:** National Policy for Recreational Fisheries
- 2. Presenter:** Russell Dunn, National Policy Advisor for Recreational Fisheries
- 3. Objective/Purpose (Discussion/Action):** The objective of this discussion is to inform MAFAC about the national saltwater recreational fisheries policy project and solicit guidance on concepts appropriate for consideration in a draft policy document.

Saltwater recreational fishing is woven into our nation's social and economic fabric. For an organization the size of NOAA, process and policy are important. A clear statement about operating principles can help institutionalize NOAA Fisheries' commitment to healthy, sustainable, and satisfying recreational fisheries and provide guidance in fulfilling agency stewardship responsibilities.

The national saltwater recreational fisheries policy will outline a set of principles to guide NOAA Fisheries' actions and thinking over the long-term. The policy will adhere to the tenets of the Magnuson-Stevens Act (MSA), the legislation which governs fisheries management in federal waters. While the MSA outlines the legal requirements, this new policy will make clear the values we will keep in mind when implementing the law.

4. Background and Charges to MAFAC:

In 2012, approximately 11 million saltwater anglers took 72 million trips resulting in \$58 billion in sales impacts and supporting 381,000 jobs. Anglers have become increasingly interested and involved in fisheries management in recent years. During the 2014 National Recreational Saltwater Fishing Summit, NOAA Fisheries committed to develop an Agency-wide policy at the request of the angling community.

As of September 16th, NOAA Fisheries has conducted 25 recreational policy discussions seeking input. In addition to speaking to the federal councils, inter-state fisheries commissions, and states, NOAA Fisheries has held public town halls, and met with various advisory bodies, such as the MAFAC recreational fisheries working group. The public comment period on the recreational policy discussion guide closed on September 12th.

Primary goals under consideration include:

1. Foster and enhance sustainable, healthy, and diverse recreational/non-commercial fisheries and public access to them.
2. Integrate saltwater recreational/non-commercial considerations throughout NOAA and the federal fisheries management system.

3. Encourage partnership, engagement, and innovation.
4. Enhance transparency, follow-through, and long-term continuity of action.

Discussion of proposed policy components:

1. Do the primary goals and sub-bullets contained in the discussion document sound reasonable?
2. What ideas are missing?
3. Any red flags?
4. Are there any potential impacts which concern you?

5. Options Listed from 1 to n: TBD

6. Preferred Recommendation: TBD

Record of Decision:

Decision, Next Step(s) and/or Action:

Assigned to:

Due Date: